

# Questions and Request for Clarifications regarding the US Route 460 Corridor Improvements Project

**Answers and Clarifications Issued August 15, 2006**

**Revisions and Additions to Answers and Clarifications Issued August 28, 2006**

*Below please find revisions and additions to questions and requests for clarifications that were submitted to VDOT. Changes to our previous answers and additions are identified in red type. In some limited instances, submissions have been edited for formatting purposes. Each question and answer is numbered. VDOT has made every effort to answer each question as fully as possible. In the event that any answer listed below conflicts in any way with any relevant statute, the Implementation Guidelines, VDOT policy or the requirements of the Solicitation for Proposals (SFP), the statute, Implementation Guidelines, VDOT policy or the requirements of the SFP shall be controlling.*

*Revision and Addition summary:*

*Changes have been made to the answer for 6<sup>th</sup> bullet to Question 12.*

*Changes have been made to Answer 13.*

*Question and Answer 15 has been added.*

*Question and Answer 16 has been added.*

*Question and Answer 17 has been added.*

**Question 1:** In order to protect certain information in my proposal from disclosure under FOIA, may I discuss such request with VDOT prior to the proposal submission date?

**Answer 1:** Should an Offeror have concerns regarding protection of certain information, the Offeror may submit a written request to the VDOT Point of Contact (POC) prior to proposal submission. VDOT will make a written determination whether the records are exempt from disclosure in accordance with the Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.6 and the PPTA Implementation Guidelines.

The written request shall identify with specificity the records or other material for which protection is sought and a clear statement of the reasons for invoking the protection with reference to one or more of the classes of record listed under §2.2-3705.6(11). If necessary, the Offeror may request a meeting to specify and justify why such records are exempt from disclosure.

If requested, the Offeror will make an oral presentation to the VDOT staff and legal counsel regarding the requested exemption and the VDOT will make a written determination related to the request and provide that determination to the Offeror. Once a written determination is made by the VDOT related to the nature and scope of the protection, the records afforded protection under §2.2-3705.6(11) shall continue to be protected from disclosure when in the possession of any affected jurisdiction to which

such records are provided by the VDOT. If the written determination provides less protection than requested by the Offeror, the Offeror shall have the opportunity to withdraw the proposal.

§2.2-3705.6 and §56-573.1:1 of the Code of Virginia outlines the application of the Freedom of Information Act to the PPTA process. Where interpretation of these statutes is required, the policy goals of transparency and accountability in these guidelines shall prevail. VDOT will consult with the Office of Attorney General for legal determination of any request for exemption from FOIA.

**Question 2:** Previously (March 31, 2006, Questions and Requests for Clarification, Question 4), it was indicated that the expected signoff date of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) would be August 2006. Is there any change to this schedule for both the signoff of the FEIS and the subsequent ROD?

**Answer 2:** There is no change to the current schedule of an anticipated FEIS signoff in August 2006 and subsequent issuance of a ROD in the Fall of 2006.

**Question 3:** Do the Offerors need to specify the source and amount of public funds anticipated to be used to finance the project in the conceptual proposal?

**Answer 3:** Yes. Offerors *must* provide specific information in the conceptual proposals regarding the source and amount of any public funds anticipated to be used to finance this project. This information is mandatory for the conceptual proposals. VDOT has included in Addendum #3 in section 3.11 a clarification relative to this requirement. Further, section 5.5.6 has always required that this information be provided by the Offerors in the conceptual proposal. Failure to provide this information in the conceptual proposals may result in a conceptual proposal being declared non-responsive and the Offerors' team declared ineligible to participate in this solicitation.

**Question 4:** Could VDOT provide the electronic GIS data files used to prepare the EIS?

**Answer 4:** No. The electronic GIS data files cannot be provided to Offerors, as VDOT is not the "owner" of this information. VDOT obtains many of the GIS data files from other resource agencies. Interested parties may contact the resource agencies for specific data files.

**Question 5:** What is the status of using an electronic data room where project plans and information is made available for potential Offerors?

**Answer 5:** The electronic data room is presently under consideration by VDOT. After receipt of the conceptual proposals, bidders will be notified as to the status of a potential electronic data room for the Route 460 website.

The following questions are requests for additional information, generally in response to SFP requirement to “Indicate any significant variances between the revenues, assumptions, and forecasts used in the proposal and those provided in the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission draft Regional Toll Feasibility Study and the Toll Feasibility Summary prepared as part of the Route 460 Location Study”, Section 5.5.1.8 of the SFP (Addendum #2). In some cases, the request for information did not provide sufficient detail for VDOT to determine if information was available, as noted.

**Question 6:** Could VDOT provide more information regarding the traffic model used in the Draft EIS and the Traffic, Transportation and Freight Technical Report?

**Answer 6:** A copy of Attachment A to the Traffic, Transportation and Freight Technical Report has been made available on the project website under the Solicitation for Proposal link <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>. Attachment A, *Traffic Model Methodology and Results* includes the background information on the traffic models. Electronic files or access to the models used for the Draft EIS are not available.

**Question 7:** Could VDOT provide more specific traffic data including such items as: AADT traffic counts; US460 Turn Movement Peak Hour Counts; US460 Vehicle classification counts; historical information on toll transaction levels on existing Virginia facilities, traffic counts and toll levels with years where the toll level was adjusted; roadside OD survey report; any truck OD data for US460 and I-64; travel time survey data used for US460, I-64, I-95, and I-295?

**Answer 7:** Readily available traffic data may be accessed at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/comtravel/ct-TrafficCounts.asp>.

**Question 8:** Does VDOT have the population and employment data by census area/forecast horizon years, or whatever was assumed in the traffic models?

**Answer 8:** Interested parties should consult the Socioeconomic Tech Report available on the Route 460 project website at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>

**Question 9:** Is there available information on Freight and Truck traffic?

**Answer 9:** All of the information related to freight and truck traffic contained in the SFP was provided by the Virginia Port Authority. Interested parties should contact the Virginia Port Authority for additional information on freight and truck traffic. The Virginia Port Authority website is located at <http://www.vaports.com/>.

**Question 10:** Is information available regarding Port container traffic forecasts?

**Answer 10:** All of the information related to container traffic volumes contained in the SFP was provided by the Virginia Port Authority. Interested parties should contact the Virginia Port Authority for additional information on freight and truck traffic. The Virginia Port Authority website is located at <http://www.vaports.com/>.

**Question 11:** Is information available regarding major activity centers in the 460 corridor; including proposed distribution centers; Norfolk Southern Intermodal Yard; Fort Lee expansion; and an auto manufacturing preferred location study?

**Answer 11:** Interested parties may contact regional/local economic development offices, Norfolk Southern Railroad, the US Army, and other sources for publicly available information on future development.

**Question 12:** Are the following reports/studies available?

- The Virginia Six Year Plans and a summary of major future projects
- The full version of the toll feasibility study (only the summary report has been made available so far)
- Appendix A from the DEIS (Technical model report)
- The Virginia Tobacco Commission report on preferred location for an auto manufacturing plant
- Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
- VPA, 2005, "An Economic Opportunity for Hampton Roads: An Intermodal Park"
- Any traffic impact studies on Fort Lee, VPA, Maersk, Norfolk Intermodal yard, proposed distribution center expansions.

**Answer 12:** Answers are provided in the same order as listed above:

- The VDOT Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) is available on the VDOT website. VDOT does not prepare a summary report of projects. The program may be sorted by various categories including district, jurisdictions, and road type, as well as by MPO or major projects. The website link is [http://syip.virginiadot.org/LinItems.asp?syp\\_scenario\\_id=16](http://syip.virginiadot.org/LinItems.asp?syp_scenario_id=16). The 20-year plan is also available on line at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/pr-statehighwayplan.asp>.

- The Toll Summary Report is the full report provided to VDOT as part of the Location Study conducted for the DEIS for the Route 460 project.
- The Appendices to the Draft EIS are now available on the project website under the Solicitation for Proposal link  
<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>.
- Interested parties should contact the Virginia Tobacco Commission directly for reports issued by the Commission. The Virginia Tobacco Commission's website is located at <http://www.vatobaccocommission.org/>.
- The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has recently updated its website. A revised link is provided in Addendum #3 which is posted on the Route 460 project website. The Passenger Rail Feasibility Study is available via the DRPT website which is located at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/>.
- A copy of the study entitled "An Economic Opportunity for Hampton Roads: An Intermodal Park" is available on the project website at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>. Interested parties should contact the Virginia Port Authority for additional information on the study. The Virginia Port Authority website is located at <http://www.vaports.com/>.
- VDOT is unaware of specific traffic impact studies.

**Question 13:** Are boring logs and related geotechnical information available for this project, corridor, and alignments?

**Answer 13:** VDOT has identified the following historic geotechnical data for locations within the proposed project corridor.

Hampton Roads District:

- Route 460 Bridge at Zuni (over the Blackwater River), project no. 6460-087-104
- Proposed Route 40 Bypass at Waverly, project no. 0040-091-110

Richmond District:

- Route 460 – I-295 Interchange vicinity

The above information has been posted on the Solicitation for Proposal website at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>.

**Question 14:** There are changes to the PPTA in 2006. Do these changes apply to this project?

**Answer 14:** The project will be procured in accordance with the current laws and regulations.

**Question 15:** The Draft EIS presented cost information in two tables with different estimates. Is there a reason the costs in the Executive Summary, Table S-1 are lower than the costs in Table 2.3-1? Is it possible to obtain the backup information used in developing the cost estimates?

**Answer 15:** The cost estimates prepared for the conceptual alternatives (Table 2.3-1) were extremely preliminary and intended to be conservative. The preliminary cost estimates were high because the design at the time assumed bridging over all 100-year floodplains. Due to the flat terrain and extent of floodplains in the area, this resulted in long and expensive bridges. More detailed engineering later in the study refined these bridge lengths to better represent what actually might be built, and is reflected in the Executive Summary, (Table S-1).

A spreadsheet showing the breakdown of the cost estimates per alignment and per County is available on the Solicitation for Proposal website at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/ppta-US-Route460-SFP.asp>. Backup files from VDOT's Project Cost Estimating System (PCES) used to develop the cost estimates are also provided in zipped files, sorted per candidate build alternative. Right-of-way estimates were developed in the Right of Way Cost Technical Report, already available on the website.

**Question 16:** VDOT typically develops figures used for presentations at public hearings. Does VDOT have these types of figures available, such as aerial photos, drawings with the alignment, tax record information, impact summaries, etc.? Can this information be provided electronically?

**Answer 16:** Figures as described above are not available electronically at this time; however, VDOT continues to evaluate ways to share this information and will post it to the website when available.

**Question 17:** Is it VDOT's intent that all of the criteria must be met before we enter into a contract, or just the professional services requirements as defined in Section 9.4.1 of the SFP?

**Answer 17:** Before executing a contract, an Offeror must meet all of the requirements of Section 9.4.1. However, the Offeror is not obligated to meet these requirements at the time of conceptual proposal submission.